

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O P 191718Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9026

INFO AMCONGEN ASMARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5576

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CASC PFOR OTRA

SUBJ: TENNECO FIVE

REFS: A. ADDIS 5570; B. ADDIS 5576; C STATE 103724; D. STATE 104357.

1. MININT ZEWDE, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS LEGAL ADVISOR COL. LEGESSE AND BY SECURITY CHIEF COL. SOLOMON KADIR RECEIVED CANADIAN AMBASSADOR REYNOLDS, TENNECO'S CLYDE WILSON AND ED BURTCHAEEL, POL COUNSELOR AND MYSELF FOR TWO HOUR SESSION MAY 19. SUBSTANCE OF POINTS MADE BY PARTIES FOLLOWS.

2. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR OPENED WITH EXPRESSION GOC'S CONCERN -- WITH WHICH TENNECO REPS AND I ASSOCIATED OURSELVES -- OVER LENGTHENING DETENTION HOSTAGES. REYNOLDS POINTED OUT THAT THERE REASON MISTRUST MORGHANI AND ASKED WHETHER MININT AND IEG INTENDED -- AS GOC HOPED IT WOULD -- RESPOND AS REQUESTED IN 7 POINT MESSAGE AND WHETHER REPLY TO BE CONVEYED THROUGH MORGHANI.

3. I AMPLIFIED ON FOREGOING NOTING MORGHANI BY HIS OWN ADMISSION TO TENNECO NOT DIRECTLY IN TOUCH WITH CAPTOR-BAND BUT CONCLUDED WITH USC'S HOPE (PER REF D) IEG COULD PREPARE AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO MESSAGE BROUGHT BY MORGHANI. I ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE IEG WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR REYNOLDS, MYSELF AS WELL AS TENNECO BEFORE ACTUALLY DESPATCHING ITS REPLY. I CONCLUDED WITH

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REQUEST FOR IMPROVED CONSULTATION PROCEDURES VIEW DELAYS EX-

PERIENCED IN TRANSMISSION OF INFO REACHING IEG TO CANADIANS.
TENNECO AND OURSELVES.

4. WILSON THEN SAID THAT GOVGEN ERITREA WOULD SEE MORGHANI MAY 20 AT 1000 HOURS. TENNECO REPS WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY BE PRESENT. MORGHANI NEEDED TO BE EVALUATED AND TOLD THAT ANY ATTEMPT ON HIS PART TO PLAY WITH HOSTAGES, TENNECO AND IEG FOR OWN ADVANTAGE COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. IF MORGHANI TO BE USED IN NO NON-SENSE EFFORT SECURE CAPTIVE'S RELEASE, TENNECO PREPARED MAKE IT WORTH HIS WHILE. BUT IF MORGHANI NOT REALLY ABLE PERFORM, IT BEST HE BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY OPT OUT RATHER THAN CONTINUE AS IN LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

5. ZEWDE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING. HE SAID IEG EXTREMELY CONCERNED AND WANTS TO DO UTMOST SECURE HOSTAGES RELEASE. IT ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITHIN IEG GO ALONG WITH 7 POINT DEMAND. DETAILS (WHO WOULD BE NEGOTIATOR ETC) STILL TO BE DECIDED. MEANWHILE, THERE APPARENTLY NO RPT NO ALTERNATIVE TO MORGHANI AS MESSENGER. MORGHANI HAD ALREADY CONVEYED, AT MININT'S DIRECTION, IEG'S AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO 7 POINT DEMAND. HE HAD RETURNED WITH OLD LETTERS FROM HOSTAGES AND MESSAGE TO GOVGEN IN WHICH ELF LAID BLAME FOR DELAYS ON TENNECO AND GOVGEN. ELF HAD TOLD MORGHANI MEN WERE SAFE. IF, ZEWDE CONTINUED, MORGHANI HAD MORE DETAILED INFO GOVGEN WOULD HAVE IT MAY 20 AND WOULD TRANSMIT IT PROMPTLY TO ADDIS FOR IEG CONSIDERATION.

6. I ASKED ZEWDE ABOUT TIMING IEG'S DEFINITIVE REPLY. HE SAID IT SHOULD BE READY WEDNESDAY (MAY 22).

7. I THEN REPEATED IT WOULD BE USEFUL HAVE MEETING FOR CONSULTATION ALL CONCERNED ONCE IEG POSITION FULLY FORMULATED BUT BEFORE IT IS DESPATCHED TO ELF. ZEWDE NODDED AGREEMENT.

8. ZEWDE CONSULTED WITH GOVGEN BY TELEPHONE AT LENGTH AND IT WAS LEFT THAT LATTER WOULD RECEIVE TENNECO REPS MAY 20, HOPEFULLY WHILE MORGHANI STILL PRESENT.

9. FOR ASMARA: AIRCRAFT PER REF B DEPARTING ADDIS O/A 0630 HOURS MAY 20. ETA ASMARA O/A 0800. PLEASE MEET.

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10. FOR KHARTOUM - PLEASE CABLE "IMMEDIATE" RESULTS APPROACH REQUESTED REF A, IF AVAILABLE, ALSO TO ASMARA. FYI TENNECO REPS TENTATIVELY PLANNING FLY ASMARA-KHARTOUM FOLLOWING INTERVIEW WITH GOVGEN MORNING MAY 20.

11. FOR OTTAWA: AT TENNECO'S REQUEST WE HAVE WITHHELD FOR AMB REYNOLDS AND IEG ANY KNOWLEDGE OF PROPOSED TRIP TO SUDAN.
WYMAN

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NNN

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